Organise! friends of the International Workers' Association

Southern Bulletin

CLASS WAR

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FEMINISM MUST BE

ANTI-CAPITALIST

April 14 th of this year saw Katy Perry travel to space along with 5 other women aboard Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin rocket. The first all-female space flight in 60 years was hailed as a massive victory for girl boss feminism once the "astronauts" landed safely back on earth after a whopping 11 minutes. Perry allegedly sang Louis Armstrong's "What A Wonderful World" as the spacecraft descended back to earth, and kissed the ground, claiming she felt "super connected to love" once back on solid ground. However, following her voyage to space, Perry has come under strong criticism. In addition to the fact that this voyage did not serve any purpose from a scientific point of view the craft also emitted an incredible 50 tons of C02. We are already seeing polar ice caps melting at an alarming rate along with rising sea levels. Not to mention an increase in frequency and duration of wildfires, themselves a contributing factor in the emission of greenhouse gases, which further escalating the climate crisis, alongside an increase in other natural disasters. Not only is Bezos' other company, Amazon, actively engaging in greenwashing and driving climate change, but the New Shepherd rocket's supposedly "pollution-free fuel" creates nitrogen oxide and water vapour, both of which massively contribute to global warming. Water vapour also breaks down in the stratosphere, releasing hydrogen oxide molecules that destroy ozone.

Such a whimsical endeavour as "space tourism" highlights the fact that billionaires and the capitalist class care little for the needs of the rest of us. The backlash from the revelation of how much harm was caused by her trip to space was swift for Perry once a video she appeared in for UNICEF from 2015 resurfaced, wherein the popstar warns the public of the dangers "man-made climate change" are causing to our planet. The genocide of Palestinians shows no sign of ceasing any time soon. Afghan refugees are being forcibly expelled from Pakistan, back to the brutalities of the Taliban. Sudanese are being murdered, attacked and displaced. Conflict rages in the Congo.

And these billionaires think their 11 minute space trip is for the benefit of humanity?

INSIDE: Trans Rights are Workers Rights; Refugees Welcome; Trade War Uncertainties...

WELCOME TO CLASS WAR!

Welcome to the latest edition of Class War, the anarcho-syndicalist bulletin from members of Organise! in the Republic of Ireland.

The name of our bulleting is inspired by Camillo Berneri's newspaper *Guerre de Classe* which was edited by him in Italy and then, in exile, in Spain until his assassination on May 5th 1937. Berneri along with Francesco Barbieri were taken out of their apartment by a dozen plainclothes men with red armbands and police. The corpses of the two Italian anarchists were found riddled with bullets - assassinated by Stalinist counter-revolutionaries during the Spanish Civil War.

Our focus is unashamedly working class. We would refute however that there is anything 'reductionist' about asserting this. We see class as the fundamental cleavage in society and the working class, as a whole, as the group which has a real interest in the destruction of capitalist exploitation and oppression and the replacement of states, nations and corporations with a new world based on equality, freedom and libertarian communism.

We do not hold with stereotypical notions of a white, male industrial working class. We see capitalism as a racialised, and (while patriarchy is older than capitalism) patriarchal system. Nor do we idealise the working class, we are kept in ignorance and fed a diet of misinformation in order to keep us ignorant, brutalised and divided. We are deliberately distracted from our common interests and conned into the mistaken belief that we have interests in common with our 'native' bosses and politicians.

For us the working class consists in the vast majority of humanity and in this majority lies the hope for a social revolution that can save us all from the barbarism and destruction of capitalist greed and war.

TRANS RIGHTS ARE WORKERS RIGHTS

April also saw the UK pass a new "gender law," whereby the legal definition of a woman is based on sex at birth, thereby excluding transgender women. This ruling was hailed as a victory by anti-transgender activist Graham Linehan, as well as author JK Rowling. However, it should come as no surprise to anyone that this ruling by the Supreme Court is a vicious attack on trans rights, and opens the door to further consequences for trans people across the UK.

Sinn Fein TD and health spokesperson for the party David Cullinane came out in support of the ruling on Twitter/X, and called for it to be "fully examined in this state" in a subsequently deleted tweet. This saw the party come under strong criticism from Trans and Intersex Pride Dublin, who have threatened to ban the political party from attending their march this coming July. Cullinane has since attempted to backtrack on his earlier statement, saying it is a complex issue, which should be approached with compassion.

However, his initial tweet and the lack of any worthwhile message from party leader Mary Lou McDonald has led to suspicion that the party is becoming engulfed in culture wars.

The new Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeil, has stated that the HSE is developing a new model of care for gender healthcare services. This follows on from a review by *The Journal Investigates,* which uncovered traumatic experiences in the National Gender Service.

A spokesperson for the Professional Association for Trans Health Ireland (PATHI) stated they were "deeply concerned about the structural failures within the trans healthcare system," a system which sees some transgender people turning to DIY HRT in the absence of any proper treatment. Organise! IWA will continue to stand alongside, and advocate for, our trans comrades.

REFUGEES WELCOME

2024 saw a record 14 asylum seekers die in the international protection system in 2024. Data from the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) show a further 3 asylum seekers died in the first 6 weeks of this year. One of those was Quham Babatunde, a 34 year old Nigerian man who died following a violent incident in Dublin City Centre last February.

While one migrant rights group claims Ireland is not providing critical vulnerability assessments for asylum seekers, the State have attempted to overturn a High Court ruling that it has failed to provide for the basic needs of international protection applicants and is in breach of human rights law. Their claim in this regard being that they cannot house asylum seekers "at the drop of a hat." And in a move which would seem to us in Organise! IWA to cowtow to the far right and anti-immigration activists, Taoiseach Micheál Martin stated back in March that the decision to no longer open

asylum seeker centres in certain areas, such as "the last hotel in town" was as a result of local and political feedback. It has long been the policy of the Irish government to open IPAS centres in disadvantaged and poorly funded communities, thereby deliberately exacerbating a growing feeling of anti-immigration sentiment among a small section of the population. Asylum seekers are not your enemy-this rotten government is!

Trade War Uncertainty

The US and China have been in an ongoing trade war since Trump's first term as President of the United States. However, his second term in office has seen this conflict escalate significantly, with the US announcing a 145% tariff on Chinese goods, and China imposing a 125% tariff in retaliation. This has seen an overall impact on global supply chains and has slowed economic growth worldwide. A recent 90 day pause in the trade war seems to have only added to the overall uncertainty.

All of this amidst the announcement of US tariffs against the EU and the UK. While Trump seems willing to negotiate with China, and indeed the UK, however, to find an end to this tariff war, the US president seems reluctant to negotiate with the EU in any meaningful way, claiming the union "was set up to screw the US." It remains to be seen how much of an impact the escalating trade war will have on the global capitalist economy, but make no mistake – we will be waiting with bated breath!

Build A Working Class Alternative!

Before it's too late...

Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland affiliated to the International Worker's Association as a 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, particularly those organised on anarcho-syndicalist lines.

We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked over by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, and sick of a greedy bosses and landlords getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy, racism and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier…

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

In the South of Ireland we currently have members and contacts in Cavan, Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Monaghan, and elsewhere and we are actively building our membership. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at:

https://organiseanarchistsireland.com

email: OrganiseASyndIreland@gmail.com